

(b) if so, whether any survey for the purpose has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All India Radio and Doordarshan have extensive data on population and area coverage of their existing transmitters. Before deciding the location of transmitters various factors like existing coverage in the area, the extent of resultant coverage of the new transmitter, need to provide services to remote, tribal, backward, hilly and sensitive border areas are taken into account. Besides the above, the economic and cultural importance of a place is also taken into account.

Exposure of Vulgarity in TV Programmes

2998. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have devised or propose to devise any method to check exposure of vulgarity in the programmes aired through foreign TV channels; and

(b) what action Government have taken and whether they propose to set up a tribunal or judicial body for timely detection and prosecution of such channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The distribution through cable television networks of programmes of foreign satellite TV channels is governed by the provisions of the Cable Television networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules made thereunder. As per Section 5 and 6 of the Cable Television networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, no cable operator shall transmit or retransmit any programme or advertisement on his cable service, unless these are in conformity with the prescribed codes. However, free to air programmes of foreign satellite channels are exempted from this provision. Enforcement of these provisions are to be done by the authorized officers to be notified by the respective State Governments. Some of the State Governments have not notified authorised officers for purposes of all the

sections of the Act. Government has introduced a Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill in the current session of Parliament with a view to remove, amongst others, these lacuna.

Further, the TV channels uplinking their programmes from India are bound through appropriate licensing conditions, to abide by the programme and advertisement codes as applicable to Doordarshan. However, the Government is not in a position to impose such conditions or obligations on the TV channels uplinking their programmes from outside the country, as they are not bound to seek permission or approval for downlinking. This situation has got further accentuated as these channels were earlier not permitted to uplink their programmes from India. In order to remove this anomaly, the Government has liberalized its uplinking policy recently enabling these channels to uplink their programmes from India, so as to bring them within the ambit of our rules and regulations particularly, the ones relating to the compliance with our programme and advertisement codes.

Government is also contemplating to bring a comprehensive legislation with a view, amongst others, to provide for regulation of broadcasting services including foreign satellite TV channels.

Report on Restructuring of Prasar Bharati

2999. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether even as the Shunu Sen Committee's report on restructuring Prasar Bharati is said to be under active consideration, an early decision appears to be unlikely because of the contentious nature of some of its recommendations; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to sort out the issues by Government, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) View on some of the recommendations of Shunu Sen Committee is to be taken by Prasar Bharati, whereas in respect of some others, Government has to take a view. The Government has already started the process of consulting the Members of Prasar Bharati Board and representative of staff and employees union for taking a final view. The report has also been circulated among the Members of the Consultative Committee for seeking their views.